

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-09 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 ACDA-19 SS-14 NSC-10 OMB-01 RSR-01 /124 W
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R 281400 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3509

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

USMISSION NATO

DEFENSE/ISA

DEFENSE/JCS

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0339

E. O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: NMARR IC

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION ISSUE

REF: REYKJAVIK 0329

1. IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH ME EARLIER THIS WEEK, GEIR HALLGRIMSSON, VICE CHMN OF OPPOSITION INDEPENDENCE PARTY (CP) AND CONTENDER FOR PRIME MINISTERSHIP IN NEXT GOVT, EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT FONMIN AGUSTSSON MAY LOSE CREDIBILITY WITH HIS OWN GOVT AND THE PARLIAMENT IF HE CANNOT PRODUCE SOON ANY OF THE STUDIES USG PROMISED DURING AGUSTSSON' S VISIT IN WASH. HE SAID FEELING GETTING AROUND IN ABOVE- CITED CIRCLES THAT USG WAS APPARENTLY " OOYING" WITH FONMIN.

2. HALLGRIMSSON AS ALTERNATE MEMBER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS CMTE IS AWARE OF PAPERS PROMISED. HE SAID AGUSTSSON REPORT TO CMTE SAID " NOTHING", AND THE NATO STUDY (REFTEL) WAS DISAPPOINTING. HALLGRIMSSON SAID HIS INDEPENDENCE PARTY HAS GONE ALONG SO FAR WITH FONMIN' S TACTICS OF STALLING DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT ON IDF, BUT FONMIN' S HAND MIGHT BE FORCED BY SOME MEMBERS OF FONMIN' F OWN PARTY AS WELL AS BY SOME MEMBERS OF IP AND PP PARTIES,
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UNLESS FONMIN CAN PRODUCE SOMETHING VERY SOON. HALLGRIMSSON SUGGESTED WE GIVE THE FONMIN THE " OPTIONS PAPER" THE PAPER DELIVERED BY CAPTAIN HUDSPZTH AND CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW IN WASH) WHICH HE SAID HE ASSUMES IS BEING WRITTEN SO AS TO LEAD THE READER TUS TOTAL OF MEMBERS FOR MOTION (I. E. AGAINST WHITE PAPER) AND ABSTAINING EXCEEDED TOTAL AGAINST MOTION (I. E. FOR WHITE PAPER). ON SUBSEQUENT MOTIONS TO SEEK NEGOTIATIONS WITH UKG ON BASIS OF WHITE PAPER, 381 VOTED FOR , 44 AGAINST. BY THIS TIME SIZEABLE NUMBER OF MEMBERS, INCLUDING CRAIG, HAD LEFT MEETING IN PROTEST AGAINST DEFEAT OF FIRST MOTION .

2. POINTS TO BE NEGOTIATED WITH UKG WERE NOT SPELLED OUT IN DETAIL, BUT FALL UNDER THREE HEADINGS: MEASURES TO END TERRORISM AND FUTURE CONTROL OF RUC; DEFINITION OF CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION OF NI; AND CLARIFICATION OF HOW POWER SHARING IN PROPOSED EXECUTIVE IS TO BE CARRIED OUT.

3. FAULKNER SAID HE WAS SATISFIED WITH RESULTS OF MEETING, AND DENIED CRAIG' S POST- MEETING ASSERTION THAT VOTES DID NOT REFLECT GRASS- ROOTS UNIONIST VIEWS. CRAIG SAID THAT UNIONIST PARTY IS HOPELESSLY SPLIT, AND THAT QUESTION OF NEW PARLIAMENTARY PARTY WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED. HE REFUSED TO BE DRAWN OUT ON WHETHER HE WOULD NOW RESIGN FROM UNIONIST PARTY; HE WOULD BE CONSULTING CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATIONS. JOHN TAYLOR (WHO HAS BEEN A KIND OF POLITICAL ADVISER TO RIGHT- WING ELEMENTS OF UNIONISM) THOUGHT THAT DISCUSSION AT MEETING HAD BEEN CONFUSED AND THAT LEADERSHIP SHOULD HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WHITE PAPER IS IN FACT REJECTION OF UNIONIST PROPOSALS; HE HAD PARTICULARLY IN MIND FORMATION OF EXECUTIVE WITH PERSONS IN IT NOT CLEARLY COMMITTED TO PRESERVATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION OF NI IN UK: " UNTIL WE FACE UP TO REALITIES OF WHAT IS CALLED POWER SHARING, WE CANNOT GO FORWARD AS UNITED PARTY."

4. COUNCIL HEARD SOM 40 SPEAKERS IN 5- HOUR SESSION DESCRIBED AS ROWDY, DISORGANIZED AND CONFUSED. MAIN SPEAKER HAD BEEN FAULKNER, WHO CLAIMED " WE HAVE IN UNCLASSIFIED

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FACT SECURED ALMOST ALL OF OUR FUNDAMENTALS": THESE HE IDENTIFIED AS ULSTER' S POSITION IN UK IS " MADE

EVEN MORE FIRM -- CONSENT OF PEOPLE WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ANY CHANGE; THERE WILL BE WORTHWHILE GOVERNMENT; "; THERE WILL BE " EXECUTIVE GOVERNMENT"; THERE WILL BE BIPARTISAN SUPPORT AT WESTMINSTER FOR NEW INSTITUTIONS; THER WILL BE " CHANCE TO GET RECOGNITION BY REPUBLIC"; AND " UKG HAS COMMITTED ITSELF TO ELIMINATION OF TERRORISM AS ITS HIGHEST PRIORITY." NOTING THAT WHITELAW HIMSELF HAS SAID THAT PROPOSALS ARE NEGOTIABLE, FAULKNER SAID " WAY IS OPEN FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND DISCUSSION" ON PARTS OF WHITE PAPER WHEREIN UNIONIST PARTY CONSIDERS WHITE PAPER FALLS SHORT. HE IDENTIFIED SUCH POINTS IN WHITE PAPER AS: WHETHER NEW INSTITUTIONS -- IRRITATINGLY RENAMED -- WILL HAVE WORTHWHILE POWERS; REQUIREMENT THAT LAWS ON FRANCHISE AND ELECTIONS BE REFERRED TO WESTMINSTER, THOUGH AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH NI EXECUTIVE; CONTINUING ROLE OF SECRETARY OF STATE (PAISLEY REFERS TO THIS AS " VIRTUAL DICTATOR"); ABOLITION OF OFFICE OF GOVERNOR (THERE IS WIDE ANNOYANCE AMONG LOYALISTS ON THIS POINT); LIMITATIONS LAID DOWN TO LIMIT ONE- PARTY GOVERNMENT; " AND MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, WHITE PAPER DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR AUTOMATIC RETURN OF INTERNAL SECURITY TO NEW ASSEMBLY". THIS LAST WAS ISSUE OVER WHICH FAULKNER AND HIS GOVERNMENT RESIGNED IN MARCH 1972; HE SAID HE IS " STILL CONVINCED NO NI ASSEMBLY WOULD MAINTAIN RESPECT IF IT DID NOT EVENTUALLY HAVE CONTRUL OF POLICE AND AUTHORITY TO MAINTAIN PEACE, ORDER AND GOOD GOVERNMENT".

5. COMMENT: FAULKNER WEATHERED STORM IN YESTERDAY'S MEETING, AND IS STILL UNIONIST PARTY LEADER. BUT SITUATION ON LOYALIST SIDE WITH REGARD TO WHITE PAPER REMAINS NOT FINALLY SETTLED. GROUPS ON RIGHT OF FAULKNER ARE MEETING TO DISCUSS WHAT NOW TO DO, ONE CERTAINLY- POSSIBLE RESULT WOULD BE FORMATION OF NEW PARTY THAT COULD MAKE FURTHER INROADS IN PRESENT UNIONIST RANKS. FOR IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW MUCH ROOM FOR NEGOTIATION THERE IS IN WHITE PAPER, PARTICULARLY ON POINT FAULKNER HAS BEEN TALKING MOST ABOUT; WHETHER AN EFFECTIVE EXECUTIVE CAN EXIST COMPOSED OF MEMBERS WITH FUNDAMENTALLY- DIFFERING UNCLASSIFIED

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ORIENTATIONS ON FUTURE CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION OF NI.
PEMBERTHY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973REYKJA00339
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730343/aaaaimyu.tel
Line Count: 170
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 REYKJAVIK 0329
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <17-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980113
Subject: IDF RETENTION ISSUE
TAGS: MARR, n/a
To: CINCLANT
COMICEDEFOR
DEFENSE/ISA
DEFENSE/JCS
EUR
NATO
SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005